

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY
SEASON CLOSES TO POT GEAR
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-08-12**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E state-waters Pacific cod season will close to vessels fishing with pot gear effective 12:00 noon, March 26, 2012. The season remains open to vessels fishing with jig gear.

The state-waters Pacific cod season opened to pot gear at 12:00 noon, February 11 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 1.45 million pounds. New regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries specify that the PWS state-waters Pacific cod season close to pot gear when 90 percent (1.31 million lb) of the GHL is achieved. Based upon current harvest levels, this amount has been achieved.

Fishermen are reminded that there is a 24-hour delivery time requirement following closure of a groundfish fishery and that the PWS state-waters Pacific cod exclusive area vessel registration becomes invalid 24-hours following the season closure.

Any GHL remaining on September 1, will become available to all legal gear types. At that time, vessels must again obtain a PWS state-waters Pacific cod exclusive area vessel registration in order to lawfully participate in that season.

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